

SENATE BILL 339

G1

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

2lr1099

By: **Senators Raskin, Currie, Forehand, King, Madaleno, Montgomery, and Rosapepe**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Elective Franchise – Registration and Voting at Early Voting Polling Places**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the General Assembly to provide by suitable
4 enactment a process to allow a qualified voter to register and vote on certain
5 days before election day at certain polling places; making a stylistic change; and
6 submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State for their
7 adoption or rejection.

8 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution

9 Article I – Elective Franchise

10 Section 1 and 2

11 BY proposing an addition to the Maryland Constitution

12 Article I – Elective Franchise

13 Section 2A

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, (Three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses
16 concurring), That it be proposed that the Maryland Constitution read as follows:

17 **Article I – Elective Franchise**

18 1.

19 All elections shall be by ballot. Except as provided in **SECTION 2A OR** Section 3
20 of this article, every citizen of the United States, of the age of 18 years or upwards,
21 who is a resident of the State as of the time for the closing of registration next
22 preceding the election, shall be entitled to vote in the ward or election district in which
23 the citizen resides at all elections to be held in this State. A person once entitled to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 vote in any election district, shall be entitled to vote there until the person shall have
2 acquired a residence in another election district or ward in this State.

3 2.

4 [The] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 2A OF THIS ARTICLE, THE**
5 General Assembly shall provide by law for a uniform Registration of the names of all
6 the voters in this State, who possess the qualifications prescribed in this Article, which
7 Registration shall be conclusive evidence to the Judges of Election of the right of every
8 person, thus registered, to vote at any election thereafter held in this State; but no
9 person shall vote, at any election, Federal or State, hereafter to be held in this State,
10 or at any municipal election in the City of Baltimore, unless [his] **THE PERSON'S**
11 name appears in the list of registered voters; the names of all persons shall be added
12 to the list of qualified voters by the officers of Registration, who have the qualifications
13 prescribed in the first section of this Article, and who are not disqualified under the
14 provisions of the second and third sections thereof.

15 **2A.**

16 **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO PROVIDE BY**
17 **SUITABLE ENACTMENT A PROCESS TO ALLOW A QUALIFIED VOTER TO REGISTER**
18 **AND VOTE ON A DAY DESIGNATED FOR VOTING BEFORE ELECTION DAY AT A**
19 **POLLING PLACE WHERE THE VOTER MAY VOTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION**
20 **3(B) OF THIS ARTICLE.**

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly
22 determines that the amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by this Act
23 affects multiple jurisdictions and that the provisions of Article XIV, § 1 of the
24 Maryland Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments do not
25 apply.

26 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section
27 proposed as an amendment to the Maryland Constitution shall be submitted to the
28 qualified voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November, 2012
29 for their adoption or rejection pursuant to Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution.
30 At that general election, the vote on this proposed amendment to the Constitution
31 shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot there shall be printed the words "For the
32 Constitutional Amendment" and "Against the Constitutional Amendment," as now
33 provided by law. Immediately after the election, all returns shall be made to the
34 Governor of the vote for and against the proposed amendment, as directed by Article
35 XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and further proceedings had in accordance with
36 Article XIV.